(c) the number of complaints regarding atrocities against working women and sexual harassment received during the last three years and till date, Board-wise; and

(d) the details of the action taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of women employees working with the Cantonment Boards in the Country is 3608.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Nil till 11.12.2008.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

Aquisition of Russian Aircraft carrier

1745. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Defence Minister visited New Delhi to continue negotiation regarding acquisition of the Air craft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, besides other defence acquisition issues;

(b) if so, how far the Gorshkov deal was carried forward; and

(c) the decisions taken with regard to acquisition of Russian Aircraft carrier and other defence equipments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Russian Defence Minister visited New Delhi on 29th September, 2008 in connection with the 8th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC). Progress of on-going bilateral defence cooperation was reviewed in the meeting.

(c) Government has approved the proposal for conducting negotiations with the Russian side on ex-Admiral Gorshkov for finalizing a revised Repair and Re-equipping Contract and other related contracts/agreements affected due to delay in the project and Additional Works projected.

Augmenting of coastal security measures

1746. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reckon the coastline as a border that is to be protected as the land locked frontiers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, what steps will be taken for the same; and

(d) what steps will be taken to review the coastal security measures, coastal line and inland water activity in the light of the possible terror attacks through water ways and sea route?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The coastal borders of a country are not limited upto its coastline, but extend beyond it, upto the edge of the territorial

waters, *i.e.*, upto 12 nautical miles from the coastline, within which State laws and regulations apply.

It has been decided to entrust guarding of coastline to the Coast Guard with immediate effect. The Indian Navy will provide the necessary backup support to the Coast Guard for this purpose. The Ministry of Shipping would provide all logistical assistance that may be required to the Coast Guard and the Navy.

Allotment of Defence land to private mobile operators

1747. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allotted private mobile operators to erect towers at the Defence land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) With a view to improve the coverage and quality of the communication services in the Cantonment areas, policy guidelines relating to provision of Defence land to Communication Operators to construct Shared Communication Towers and other Infrastructure to extend Communication Network to Cantonments have been issued by the Ministry of Defence. It has been decided that the Public Sector and Independent Infrastructure Providers (IP-I), who have been granted licence by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to build, operate and maintain various services, such as Unified Access Services, Basic Services and Cellular Mobile Services, *etc.*, may be considered for allotment of Defence land on lease hold basis, to lay the Optical Fibre Cables and set up/construct shared communication towers on Defence land at cantonment areas on certain terms and conditions.

Effect of declining underground water on earthquakes

1748. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water in the country is declining putting many areas prone to earthquakes;

(b) if so, the areas identified so far; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to warn the people in those areas, in advance?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has received reports of ground fissures/cracks that have developed over parts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the recent past mainly due to fluctuation in the ground water table. Further, these events were not considered to be associated with earthquakes as the seismic networks of the Indo-Gangetic plains did not record any earthquake during the reported time of their occurrence More over, no relationship has been established between the declining underground water table and the occurrence of earthquakes.